

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 8-16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to prevent the position misalignment, a couple of technologies were proposed. One of those technologies employs a color misalignment correcting unit that forms a plurality of mark patterns for each of colors arranged along a transfer belt, detects each of the marks by a sensor, and calculates a deviation amount of the mark from an ideal position to compensate for the deviation amount. The conventional technology is disclosed, for example, in Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. 08-234531 and Patent Application Laid Open No. ~~2000-207338~~ 2002-207338.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 18-22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The image forming unit 2 includes a charger 21, an exposing device 22, a developing device 23, and a photosensitive element 24. The driving unit 3 includes a driver 31, a roller 32 50, and a transfer belt 33. The detecting unit 4 includes a reflection type optical sensor 41 and an encoder 42.

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, line 20 – page 12, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The mark pattern includes a straight mark group (indicated by reference character ~~letter-A~~ Sm in Fig. 3) and an inclined mark group (indicated by reference character ~~letter-B~~ Im in Fig. 3) formed on the front side and the rear side, i.e., both edges of the transfer belt. The straight mark group includes M, C, Y, and K marks formed in parallel with a main scanning direction (lateral direction of the transfer belt 33), and the inclined mark group

includes the same marks each formed at an angle by 45 degrees with respect to the main scanning direction.

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, line 20 – page 12, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Each interval made in the mark pattern is indicated by a distance  $d$  in Fig. 3. The reflection type optical sensors 41f (front side) and 41r (rear side), depicted in Fig. 11, read the mark pattern consisting of distances  $d$  on the transfer belt 33.